

EYES ONLY

9 July 1974

STATINTL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : Gleanings from the Murphy Commission

1. Lunch with Tom Reckford today provided the usual number of interesting tidbits. Tom is drafting a letter from Dean Wilcox to the DCI that is intended to "clarify" staff relationships on the Committee. It is meant to spell out Kent Crane's role and responsibilities--which may be more broad than we would like, but not nearly so broad as he would like. Kent is to be the "supervisor" of the Intelligence Study program, but he will be under the over-all direction of Dean Wilcox and Fisher Howe. (As an aside--it seems the real story behind Kent's appointment is: the whole thing was an accident. Congressman Frelinghuysen and Ambassador Murphy talked about Kent's working with the Commission and Murphy sent a letter to Wilcox on the subject. He later asked Wilcox if the letter were OK, and Wilcox said, "Sure"--except he was referring to a different letter. And so, folks, to save face, we give you Kent Crane, ready or not.)

2. Given Kent's tendencies to want to run things and his willingness to make decisions (right or wrong, at least he makes them), it seems very likely that Kent will be into everything. Restraining him at least to

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some extent will be the consultants who are to draft the individual portions of the intelligence studies. These research contracts are pretty much ready to go. William Harris of Rand and Bill Barnds of the Council on Foreign Relations (and formerly ONE) will be doing the principal papers. Tom will make copies of their outlines available to us as soon as they are set--probably in the next week or so. At any rate, it seems likely that the authors of the various papers will be more than able to hold their own with Mr. Crane. Tom is particularly pleased by Barnds' association with the project.

3. Tom also provided me with his unclassified summary of the DCI's testimony before the Commission last November. I have reviewed it and think Tom did a fine job. It is attached if you would like to look it over.

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United States Senate

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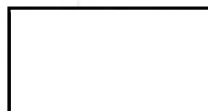
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My lunch today with Tom Reckford of the Murphy Commission brought out the info that Kent Crane won't be back for another week. His role, as we knew, is being rethought--but nothing is expected to happen until he gets back. His delay is also holding up the appointment of the research people who are to do the intelligence study--although Fisher now apparently is leaning toward Harris, of Rand, to lead the study. In view of the fact that the study was to be completed this summer, there is obviously going to be considerable slippage in their schedule.

Tom provided me the two attached drafts. The one on covert action is his own first rough cut and has not been seen or blessed by anyone else at the Commission, and we should treat it accordingly. (He would, however, welcome suggestions I am sure.) The Intelligence Plan is being circulated for comment.

Please return these when you are through. I'll keep in touch with Tom for any other nuggets.



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Tom also gave me copies of the Summary of the Research Program dealing with all subjects covered by the Commission, the Commission's Statement of Objectives, and a copy of The Commission's Studies Programs (a basic document outlining all of the studies to be undertaken). I will put them in our back-up book unless you wish to review them first.



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